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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**ACCESSING LEGACY APPLICATIONS  
FROM THE INTERNET**

AI  
Interactive legacy applications can be run from a network, such as the Internet, without requiring any code changes in the application. Typically, legacy applications are critical to a business, are self-contained on the computer, have mixed business and user interface logic, and were written before distributed computing emerged. Separating business logic from user interface logic as required by web application architectures is not practicable in the case of legacy applications. A client has a network user agent which can access a network server connected to the computer. When an application is invoked from the network user agent, a runtime data redirector intercepts the application's raw data and sends the data to the network server which then serves the data across the network to the network user agent. Input data from the user entered through the network user agent are sent back to the application via the same runtime intercept.

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ACCESSING LEGACY APPLICATIONS  
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5 <sup>can be run</sup> [A method and apparatus that has the ability to run] interactive legacy applications  
from a network, such as the Internet, without requiring any code changes in the application.  
[Thus, the application is unaware of the new network environment and continues to run, as-  
is, in its native environment. The legacy application may be accessed from any of several  
client devices using a network server that can be connected to or integral with the  
computer on which the application is executing.] Typically, [these] legacy applications are  
10 critical to a business, are self-contained on the computer, have mixed business and user  
interface logic, and were written before [software engineering principles of] distributed  
computing emerged. Separating business logic from user interface logic as required by  
web application architectures is not practicable in the case of legacy applications. A client,  
such as a thin client,] has a network user agent, [such as a web browser,] which can access  
15 a network server connected to the computer. [The method of this invention provides an  
environment such that] when an application is invoked from the network user agent, a  
runtime data redirector intercepts the application's raw data and sends the data to the  
network server which then serves the data across the network to the network user agent  
20 [after dynamically updating the associated application's network pages, such as  
JavaServerPages, which were generated by converting the proprietary display screens of  
the legacy application.] Input data [form] <sup>from</sup> the user entered through the network user agent  
are sent back to the application via the same runtime intercept. [In this fashion, the client  
and network environment are transparent to the application while the application is now  
able to take advantage of many Internet and other network capabilities.]